from the Ross Institute, London, are expected to arrive here soon to investigate the incidence of malaria in Travancore. To all these willing helpers in the cause of humanity the thanks of Travancore are due.

Epidemics.

21. In my last address, I described in detail the measures adopted to combat the spread of plague into Travancore from the infected areas adjoining the State. These preventive measures proved effective and there has been no case of plague within the State after the first 11 attacks and 6 deaths. I also told you of the steps taken last year to control the outbreak of cholera in South Travancore. It was hoped that the epidemic had been stamped out as the disease perceptibly decreased in virulence. But those hopes were falsified. The disease broke out again early in 1104 and this time in a more virulent form. This is how it began. Owing to unfavourable fishing conditions many fisherfolk migrated to the Tinnevelly district and elsewhere to work as field labourers. When the fishing improved in South Travancore, they returned to the villages and brought infection with them. The disease spread rapidly in one or two of the coastal villages and the fisherfolk scattered in a panic over the countryside. Owing to the late monsoon there was scarcity of water and people drew their supplies in the regions worst affected, from stagnant pools, infected wells and tainted subsoil water. Cholera spread rapidly and at first there was a heavy death roll. Energetic measures both to cure and to prevent were at once adopted. Squads of medical officers provided with cars equipped with medical supplies were posted at suitable centres. Every available sanitary officer and subordinate was withdrawn from North and Central Travancore and detailed for duty in the infected areas. Protective inoculation was carried out on a large scale, over 200,000 persons having been inoculated. Remedies for the cure of cholera were distributed freely and pakuthi cutcherries were kept open day and night and stocked with the remedy for distribution. The disease was before long brought under control in villages. But this was not so easy in the countryside away from the coast where the people live in scattered homesteads on the hills and dales which are characteristic of the tracts which suffered most. Difficulty of access was one of the reasons which prevented medical aid being afforded at the earliest possible moment. Another difficulty was that for some reason or another the people would not give immediate intimation of attacks which occurred during the night and it often happened that by nine or ten the following morning when the medical officers received information of a case and proceeded to the spot the patient was past help. The death rate in relation to the number of attacks began to decrease with the progress of inoculation. Also with the setting in of the monsoon the epidemic began to weaken and it has now subsided. The total number of attacks was about 13,000 and of deaths about 8,000. The success of the arrangements made is largely due to the fact that there was a ready co-operation between the medical staff and the sanitary staff which were personally directed by the Inspecting Medical

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Officer and by the Sanitary Commissioner, both of whom worked unsparingly. The thanks of the Government are due to the many non-official organisations and individuals who so readily and selflessly seconded and supplemented the efforts of the Government agencies. Large numbers of Roman Catholic priests all over the afflicted area devoted themselves day and night self-sacrificingly and with all the resources of their parishes to the succour of the sick. The members of the Salvation Army worked unselfishly in the same direction and the value of the skilled medical help rendered by the London Mission doctors in and about Neyyoor cannot be minimised. No reference to the voluntary workers in the affected areas would be complete without mention of the non-official members of the Legislative Council and of this Assembly who were to be seen going about from place to place doing all they could to help the medical and sanitary officers and to relieve the sufferers.

Education.

22. The twelfth chapter of the Administration Report now before you tells you all about the position and progress of education in Travancore. We continue to advance. The total number under instruction in 1102 fell short of half a milion by 11,000. In 1103, we rose beyond the half million by 19,000. The gross expenditure out of general revenues on education during 1103, worked out to Re. 1 per head of the population as at the last census. The net cost of educating a pupil in a Government institution was about Rs. 6 a year. On an average there was 1 school to every 1·89 square miles of the total area of the State which includes reserved forests and backwaters. But taking the inhabited area at 5,000 sq. miles we have a school to every 1·3 sq. miles and there is a school to every 998 of the population of the State. The number of girls under instruction was 191,000, 124,000 in boys' schools and 67,000 in girls' schools. The education of boys and girls together is practically universal in the primary schools and, except in the matter of the teaching staff, there is no object in differentiating boys' schools from girls' schools. And as soon as the policy is given effect to of staffing primary schools with women teachers to a greater extent than at present, the differentiation can be dispensed with. In the matter of higher education for girls the most important event in the year was the raising of the Women's College from the second grade to the first grade and the construction of a large and handsome college to replace the older buildings. Lower down in the scale of education the most important event was the improvement of the pay and prospects of teachers in vernacular primary and middle schools. The amount of additional expenditure which has been provided during the year for this purpose is Rs. 2 lakhs. This will benefit many thousands of teachers both in Government and in aided schools. The good work thus begun is being continued. The educational department is busy with the consideration of some important reforms including the giving of a practical turn to the instruction now imparted in our schools.

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